

10-1999

The L, vol. 1, no. 6, October - November 1999

New York Law School

The Voice of the New York Law School Community

the
**DOUBLE
ISSUE**

Vol. 1, No. 6 October/November 1999

Inter Alia



ALL PHOTOGRAPHS: EDDIE WESTFIELD

The Froessel Moot Court Competition

See Page 3

Inside:

News Briefs	2
Editorials	4
Sinkhole on PLA	5
New Professor	5
Exam Tips	6
Take on the Night	6
Cuba	7
Good Advice	7
CASE FOR	8
CASE AGAINST	9
Club News	12
Law Abroad	13
In Concert	15

NYLS

It's a part of us.

The L meets Thursdays at 1:00 pm—and again at 5:00 pm—in room L2 in the Student Center. All are welcome.

NEWS BRIEFS

Floyd Shuts Down NYLS

On September 16, for the first time in many years, NYLS cancelled classes due to Tropical Storm Floyd. E-mail was sent to all students to notify them of the closing and to explain the School's policy on closings, which follows the NYC Board of Education policy. Students who unknowingly trekked to NYLS that morning received complimentary coffee and donuts.

Hurricane Floyd downgraded to Tropical Storm Floyd before reaching the NYC area on Sept. 16. Damage was reported all along the eastern seaboard.

Back to School Bash at Tribeca Tavern a Hit

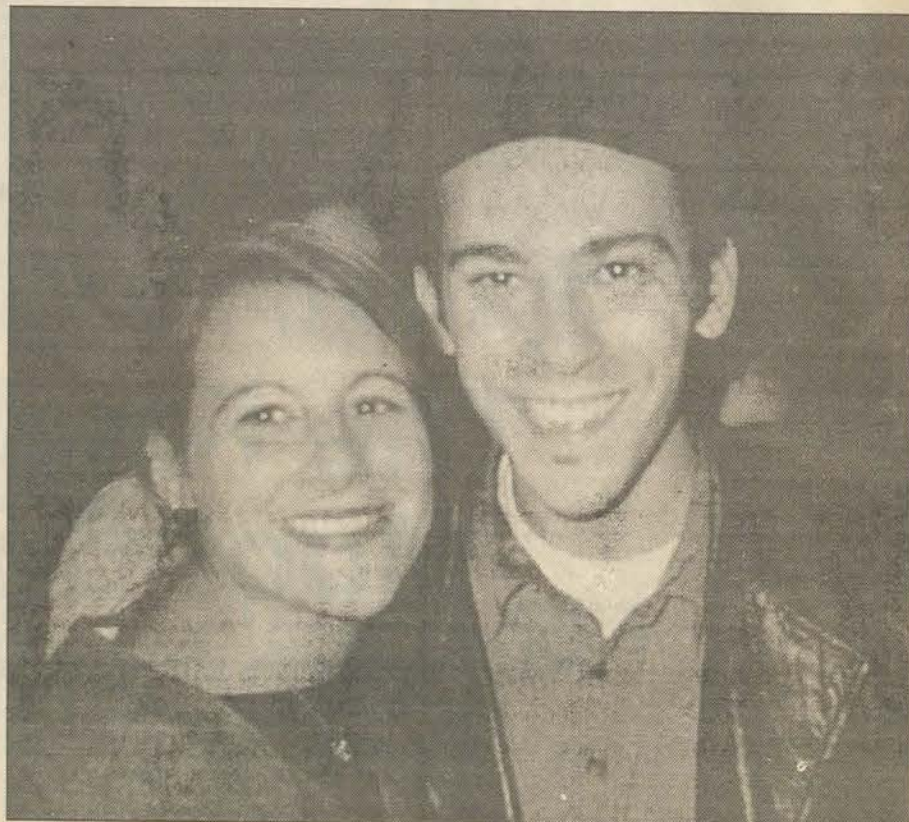
Over 300 NYLS Students Packed into the Tribeca Tavern for the Annual "Back to School Bash" on Sept. 23. The Student Bar Association (SBA) and the

Media Entertainment and Sports Law Association (MESLA) co-sponsored the affair that was originally scheduled for Sept. 16, but was postponed due to weather conditions.

Prof. Gross Honored

On Tuesday, October 5th, the Legal Aid Society of New York presented Prof. Karen Gross with a 1999 Pro Bono Award, for providing exceptional work in the field of bankruptcy for low income and disenfranchised New Yorkers. During her sabbatical, Prof. Gross volunteered with the Society's Consumer Litigation and Bankruptcy Unit. She created and supervised a law student internship program at Legal Aid, in which NYLS students participate.

The Hon. Judith S. Kaye, chief judge of the NYS Court of Appeals, hosted the ceremony held at The Legal Aid Society's Headquarters in lower Manhattan.



SBA Day Vice President Dawn Falco and Media Entertainment and Sports Law Assoc. President Elliot Resnik at the Back to School Bash at Tribeca Tavern, Sept. 23

If it matters to NYLS, it's in the L.

The Froessel Competition at NYLS



From left: Preethi Sekharan, Daniel Curtin, Judge George Bundy Smith, Prof. Nadine Strossen, Dean Harry Wellington, Judge Leonard I. Garth, Judge Milton Williams, Meida Powery and Martin Bowe



Recap

Mark Demetropoulos
News Editor

The 23rd Annual Charles W. Froessel Intramural Moot Court Competition began on August 23 and concluded on September 2. Open to all enrolled NYLS students, the competition consisted of brief-writing and oral-argument exercises. The Competition focused on two issues.

The first issue was whether a confession is inadmissible under *Miranda v. Arizona*, 384 US 436 (1966), or whether the Supreme Court should interpret 18 U.S.C. §3501 to abolish *Miranda*'s "bright-line rule." The second issue was whether a hypothetical "Save Our Children Ordinance," banning possession of firearms within a particular jurisdiction, violates the Second Amendment of the Constitution, which guarantees an individual's right to bear arms.

Meida Powery (3L) won the Final round of the Froessel Moot Court Competition. Powery, teamed with co-finalist Daniel Curtin (2L), argued against finalists Martin Bowe (3L) and Preethi Sekharan (2L). Tamara Frazier (3L) received the award for *Best Preliminary Oralist*. Curtin and Alexandra Standish (2L) captured awards for both *Best Team* and *Best Brief*.

Judges for the final round were: The Honorable Leonard I. Garth of the United States Court of Appeals for Third Circuit; The Honorable George Bundy Smith of the New York State Court of Appeals; The Honorable Milton Williams of the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department; Prof. Nadine Strossen; and Dean Harry Wellington.

The Twenty-third Annual Charles W. Froessel Intramural Moot Court Competition

Final Round Winner
Meida Powery

Finalists
Meida Powery and Daniel Curtin
Martin Bowe and Preethi Sekharan.

Best Preliminary Oralist
Tamara Frazier

Best Brief
Daniel Curtin and Alexandra Standish

Best Team
Daniel Curtin and Alexandra Standish

Candidates for the 1999-2000 NYLS Moot Court Association

Martin Bowe
Brian Counihan
Daniel Curtin
Yael Erdheim
Andra Feiner
Jacqueline Flug
Tamara Frazier
Valerie Friedman
Steven Fritz
Joanne Galia
Carol Giuliano
Shimon Getler

Christa Harper
Eric Hodges
Lauren Kirk
Jason Kobin
Jessica La Marche
Jason Leifer
Nancy Lopez
January Marsch
Charles Martin
Marisol Martinez
Owen McKeon
Anna Paesler

Randy Perlmutter
Heather Poole
Meida Powery
Edward Sapone
Bradley Schreiber
Preethi Sekharan
Alexandra Standish
Jennifer Tabacchi
Julie Trivedi
Andrea Tsoukalas
Robert Viven
Michael Yorio

Froessel Competition Authors
Ikiesha Al-Shabazz
Timothy Feil

Chair
JoAnn Squillace

Froessel Competition Chairs
Jillian Becker
Alfonso DeCicco

Vice Chair
Cesar de Castro

Editorial

Writing for the L: What's in it For You?

So you want to win a case? Besides brilliant legal research, you need strong communication skills. When you write for a newspaper, whether you write short articles, features, opinion pieces or profiles, you are not only practicing your writing skills, but you are also gaining valuable transferable skills. Like what? Research and organizational skills, interviewing, story-telling, persuasive writing, analysis, synthesis, critiquing, editing, proof-reading, working on teams, working independently and learning how to work under a deadline are all journalism skills which can be very beneficial to your legal career.

One NYLS Alum told me that the legal department, of a major entertainment company, recognized his journalism background as an important factor when they decided to hire him. Initially, the job required a tremendous amount of writing and it came down to two candidates. The interviewer asked him if he would mind doing a lot of writing if chosen. Enthusiastically, he said, "Are you kidding me? I love to write! I have a journalism background." Today, he is happily enjoying his work at the Walt Disney Corporation.

As a business owner, I retained lawyers for different jobs. Once I retained an attorney who had very poor writing skills. Receiving work that I had to edit constantly was frustrating. His ideas were good; however, this lack of attention to such an important skill—when he was representing me

and my company—was terribly off putting. Moreover, I was paying him \$150 an hour and I was doing his work for him! This is not a way to retain new accounts.



Susan Harper

Managing Editor

Additionally, clear and concise writing is extremely important as a student of law. Not only do you need strong writing skills when taking your final exams, but you also need solid writing skills when taking the bar exam. What better way to continue to foster and practice these skills than writing for a newspaper? If I have not sold you yet, let me tell you about the greatest bonus of writing for a newspaper.

When you write as a staff member of the L, at the end of the year, you will walk away with tangible evidence of your work. That is, in your hands, you will hold at least 6-8 published articles. More than likely, these articles will be on subjects, areas, and causes, which interest you. Your articles will inform people of matters you deem important, and many times, influence policy matters at the school. Moreover, you can also use these pieces as additional writing samples for potential employers.

The L is proud to announce that we now have twenty plus motivated, enthusiastic, hard working and committed day and evening students on board. Our only question is, where are you?

Introducing: Letters to the L

In our last issue, our Editor-in-Chief Eddie Westfield welcomed our fellow students to another academic year at NYLS. He also thanked the students, including myself, who will be working as the permanent staff of the L this year. However, if you enjoyed reading last month's issue, as I did, the person who the NYLS community should really welcome and thank is Eddie Westfield.

You probably noticed that Mr. Westfield's name topped almost every article in September's issue. So, I use my precious first two paragraphs to thank Eddie Westfield for his work on last month's issue and for the conviction he has demonstrated by keeping this paper alive for its second consecutive year of publication.

Last year, the L published an article written by a student who argued that commercial study aids could be used to replace the reading materials required by a given professor in a given course at NYLS. I am not lending support to the views espoused in that article. What pleased me about the article was its candid honesty.

Some people agreed with it, others were amused by it, and some people were offended by it. Whether people agreed or disagreed about the writer's opinion, the article was not ignored by the students or the professors at NYLS.

In response to that article, a student submitted another very well written article for the following issue. I found this exchange of views very exciting because an intelligent and honest dialogue had been established between two students about what it is like to study and take classes at NYLS. As readers, we noticed this dialogue because, in reality, it was an explication about how well this school is preparing us for our careers in the legal profession.



David Resnick

Copy Editor

Now, we are inaugurating a new section called 'Letters to the L.' This section of the paper will provide an outlet for students to express what it is like to study and to take classes at NYLS. I hope that the

new section will help establish an honest dialogue among the students, the professors, and the faculty of New York Law School. 'Letters to the L' could make NYLS a better place.

We constantly refer to our school as a community. All communities have problems and concerns. Our community should have a forum in which to voice our problems and concerns, to flesh them out.

With this purpose in mind, we invite you to write a letter to the L, which will appear in our next issue, about whatever you feel is important. And, let the voice of the NYLS Community, finally, speak for you.



Official Soft Drink of the NYLS Dean Search

Editor-in-Chief **Eddie Westfield Jr.**
Managing Editor **Susan L. Harper**
News Editor **Mark Demetropoulos**
Copy Editor **David Resnick**

Contributors

Alison Berger, Lourdes DeRojas, Jeffrey Eichner, Esq., Ben Ginter, Maria J. Guerra, Lauren LoCascio, Robert Lorch, Louis J. Russo III, Dean Ellen Ryerson, Ashiza Shah, Gerard Strain, Elizabeth Valandingham

Printed at Instant Newspaper, Long Island City, NY

The L is the voice of the New York Law School community. We keep the community informed of relevant school news and events and provide a forum for students, alumni, faculty, staff and other members of the NYLS community to express their views and opinions. The L also features content dealing with legal issues and other topics of interest to members of the NYLS community.

The L is independently published by its student members and is released on the first Thursday of the month while school is in session. Contributions from students, faculty, alumni, staff, and all members of the NYLS community are always welcome.

Writers of articles submitted to the L are ultimately responsible for the content of those articles submitted and accepted for publication. All articles must be written and pre-edited in a professional manner.

The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the L, any of its editors or staff members, or the students, faculty, or staff of New York Law School.

Advertising rates are available upon request. Subscriptions are available at a rate of \$12 per year.

Articles should be submitted on disk (in Word, WordPerfect, or RTF format) with a hard copy attached, by mail, or by placing it in our submissions' box in front of Room L2 in the lower level of the NYLS student center. Articles may also be emailed to L@nyls.edu.

All submissions are due by 5 p.m. on the Thursday two weeks prior to the release date. Please include your name, telephone number, and email address with your submission.

Please address all submissions, letters, and other correspondence to:

Editor-in-Chief
the L at New York Law School
47 Worth Street, room L2
New York, NY 10013-2960.

Phone (212)431-2899 Ext. 4202
Fax (212)965-8841
Email L@nyls.edu



Editor's Note: Among other things, I want to thank everyone who contributed to this issue. The L is the voice of the entire NYLS Community (it is not "The Eddie Westfield Show.") Everyone who reads this paper participates in its process. Once again, Thank you. We apologize for the delay. —ed.



Professor Sadiq Reza: Noble Aspirations

Ashiza Shah

Though he played drums, sang in bands and acted in plays throughout high school and college, Professor Sadiq Reza always knew he would head towards a career in the law. On childhood visits to India, his parents' homeland, he wondered who would speak for the poor whose makeshift shacks lined the roads. Back in school, he thrilled at the abilities of people like Abraham Lincoln and Henry Clay, who would resolve conflicts and persuade others with their reason, insight, and passion.

In addition, Prof. Reza always taught—from lecturing about snakes in grade school, to using Beatles' songs to teach the English language in Cairo, Egypt after college, to becoming a teaching fellow for undergraduate courses at Harvard while attending Harvard Law School.

After receiving his J.D., Prof. Reza clerked for a Federal judge in San Francisco and then went to Washington, DC, where he worked briefly with the American Muslim Council and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. He then spent two years as an associate with Arnold & Porter, but it was his four years at the DC Public Defender Service that shaped him as an attorney

Trying cases and arguing appeals for indigent criminal defendants, Prof. Reza loved being a public defender. However, he always felt the pull of writing and teaching—a pull that has led him here. It was through the Association of American Law Schools that he found his position at NYLS.

There are several reasons why Prof. Reza chose to be a law professor. "Law professors, through their writing, teaching, speaking, and other activities can influence the law and the way it is understood and practiced," the professor explains. "Also, law professors, like all teachers, are engaged in the pursuit of constant learning from both their scholarship and their teaching, and they are in the business of sharing that knowledge with students, colleagues, and society."

"Law professors can serve as mentors and role models for students, and help students identify and achieve their professional and personal goals. In addition, the job of law professor is to think and write



New to NYLS: Prof. Sadiq Reza

about things that truly interest them, and work with bright and interesting students and colleagues like those here. All this drew me to teaching law."

In reference to his passion—criminal law and procedure—Prof. Reza says, "There I see the law most tangibly, and often most unfairly, affecting the everyday American. It's where I see some of our most noble aspirations and

our most tragic failures.

"The noble aspirations include the pursuit of truth and justice, and the concern for due process, the principle that every person be treated with a certain amount of fairness and dignity regardless of his or her wealth, status, color, or creed." He goes on to say, "The failures are when it is unable to accord individuals the appropriate amount of dignity or due process, and sometimes the painful costs to society of affording individuals that degree of fairness."

People he credits for influencing his

life and leading him to the law are: his father, a community activist, who taught him to fight, and not necessarily to win, but for change for the good; his grandfather, a professor and scholar; his mother, who taught him compassion and never to forget the weak and downtrodden; his college thesis professor, who taught him to question conventional wisdom; and Prof. Charles Ogle-tree of Harvard Law School, who inspired him as someone who goes above and beyond the call of duty as a teacher, scholar, advocate of just causes and the defender of the unpopular.

When asked how he would like to be seen by his students, Prof. Reza turns the question around and explains that he is more interested in how his students see themselves. "Being a lawyer gives them the opportunity to effect real change in society and to have a tangible and sometimes significant impact on other people's lives," he expounds. "They should welcome that opportunity, and they should realize that they can take that opportunity wherever they want to take it to the benefit of whatever causes they wish to serve. I hope that from me and their legal education as a whole they leave with that perspective and confidence."

The Law School Sinkhole

Legally Analyze This!

Louis J. Russo III

Welcome to the Law School Sinkhole. Let us begin with the second year evening division and the wonderful course forced upon us entitled Principles of Legal Analysis.

During the Fall 1998 semester, NYLS sent a letter to all first year evening division students—who are now in their second year—informing them that a new, mandatory class would be "offered" to 40 students selected at random.

About midway through the spring semester, a follow-up letter was sent. Conveniently, the language was slightly different. The word "random" was no longer included in the letter. The result was that the lowest ranked forty students in the evening division were forced to take Principles of Legal Analysis this Fall. Honestly, does anyone really believe that there is that much difference between a B and a C?

A confidential source informed me that two students in the "bottom forty" were not required to take the course and one student, possibly top third, was al-

lowed to enroll. I can't explain this inconsistency.

This forced enrollment occurred after all students had registered and received their fall and spring schedules. So what does this School do? NYLS spent 8 months thinking up this wonderful new course. First, they tell everyone a random sample of students will be selected. Then, they wait until everyone registers, and for the grades to be in, to overnight a packet to the 40 lowest ranked students in section E telling them to re-register for Principles of Legal Analysis within one week. Sounds random to me.

Keep in mind, the school claims they had only the best intentions. If you believe that, there's this bridge near City Hall that leads to Brooklyn that's up for sale. Anyone interested?

So now, after evening division students have worked out schedules around children, marriage, work, among other problems that face part-time students, NYLS shrugs its shoulders and says, "Sorry."

I think that we all understand that life is not fair, but this is a load of garbage. The admin-

istration knew what they were planning from the beginning. It would have been easier and more reasonable if this School simply informed all evening students—back in November 1998—about this new course and that the "bottom forty" must enroll.

Not only does this policy create aggravation for the students enrolled in the course, it could create an undeserved stigma. Consider the damage that this could do to other students by messing with the curve. If you take the "low" performers out of the picture, the "middle" performers are the new "low" performers.

We are the students who actually pay tuition, supplementing the scholarships for the elite top ten percent. They don't get stuck paying for a course they don't want—just stick the rest of us with a \$3500 bill for a course we don't want. Even if the course is beneficial, this School does not consider the needs of the students. They just took our money and told us to stop whining and "deal with it."

It feels so refreshing to be in law school. Doesn't it?

To the Editor:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to [Mr. Russo's article] regarding Principles of Legal Analysis (PLA).

The sole purpose of PLA is to find better ways to meet students' academic needs. The faculty adopted the plan for PLA upon the recommendation of a faculty committee that was seeking ways to improve students' analytical skills, skills that help students learn well in law school and succeed on the bar exam and in law practice. The committee chose the design of PLA from among several possibilities as the most promising way to accomplish this important academic end.

This new course was the subject of three communications to all Evening Students last year: a brochure in October, 1998 and letters in November, 1998 and May, 1999. All three of these indicated that students would be selected to participate in PLA only after spring grades had been recorded and, by implication or explicitly, only after students had registered for the following year. The specific students who were selected were notified at the earliest possible moment—in mid-June, more than two months before fall classes started.

Half of the group, or twenty students, were assigned to a section of PLA that meets at a time different from Evidence. For some of these twenty, this reassignment caused conflicts with other courses. To help these students adjust their schedules, we offered the opportunity to participate in a priority change of program during the summer. Also for some of these twenty, the reassignment caused conflicts with non-school obligations. We regret the inconvenience to these students, but we hope and believe that PLA will prove to be a valuable academic experience.

Sincerely,
Ellen Ryerson
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Advice for Exams

Top Students Reveal Secrets of Law School Success

Ben Ginter

What are the best ways to prepare for exams? If you ask five different people for their advice, chances are you will get five totally different answers. Which piece of advice should you listen to? Which ones shouldn't you listen to?

With all of this confusion, the L decided to ask members of the Law Review and Journal for their thoughts on the matter. What was the secret behind their success? What sort of study skills did they use to achieve A's? We focused on five areas that seem to be of most concern for students: class preparation, outlines, study groups, studying for the exams and finally taking the exam.

Class preparation includes activities such as reading, briefing cases, and taking notes in class. All top students stressed that it is important to read all of the materials your professor assigns. Equally important, is that you actually understand the material you are reading, or else you will become lost in class discussions.

Journal member, David Banker, says "anytime you are confused about a case or a concept, it is important that you see your professor right away. If you don't clear up your confusion, you may have difficulty understanding some of the concepts later on."

Outlines represent all of the material you have covered in a particular class. Several top students encourage the creation of outlines early in order to begin the review process during the semester.

"When you begin your outlines, you want to use your syllabus as a guide to organize the concepts and cases," says Edward Sayago of Law Review. "Included in your outline should be the contents of the book—cases and rules, the notes that you have taken during the semester, and then supplements such as Emanuels, to clear up any ambiguity you may have."

Study groups are also an effective tool in preparing for exams. If you do choose to be in one, it should be limited to four members and should meet often to discuss cases and concepts.

Some of the benefits of being in a study group "is that it gives you a chance to hear other perspectives on the cases and concepts which may be different from your own," one Law Review member explains. "If you are having difficulty grasping concepts, the members of your group may be able to help."

Studying for exams. As exams get closer, all

students must get into "study mode". Of course if you have read all of your assignments, taken good notes, kept up with your outlines and consistently met with your study groups, you will be ahead of the game.

Most top students report that studying consists of reviewing your outlines until you understand everything in your outline, meeting with your professors to clear up any ambiguity you may have, going to exam-taking tips sessions offered by the school, meeting with your study groups consistently, and reviewing old exams professors have on file.

One Law Review member stresses the importance of reviewing old exams given by your professor because "you get an idea of how he or she formats the exam, poses the question and what he or she may emphasize." Some professors have exams on file from students who received an A in the class. Look at those exams and see what set them

apart from the rest. Additionally, it is important to take past exams, under test-like conditions, after you have studied sufficiently.

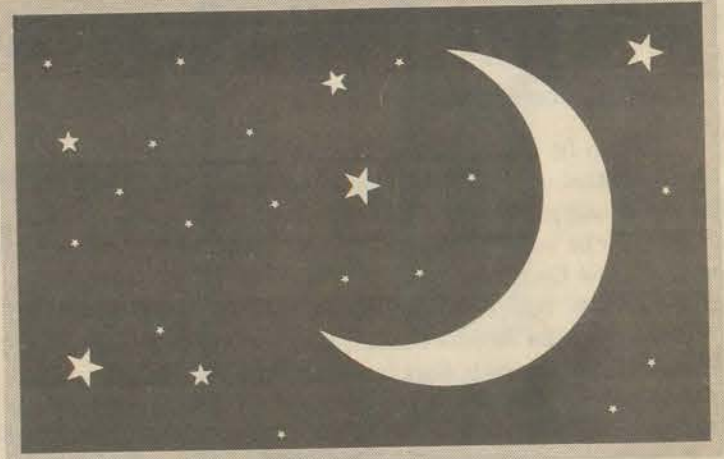
Taking the exam. Typically, on the night before an exam many students are nervous. Questions such as, "Did I study enough?" or "Did I study the right things?" go through many students' minds. Edward Sayago recommends doing something relaxing, such as lis-

tening to a meditation tape or watching a movie the night before an exam.

On the day of the exam, Edward says, "be confident and do the best you can." He recommends, "when you first get the exam read the question first. After reading the question begin to read the fact pattern."

David Banker says, "you must read the fact pattern very carefully and try to spot issues. Be careful, because professors at times may try to trick you. Professors rarely include irrelevant facts. All facts are put in for a reason. For example, a date may have big significance. In other words, scrutinize every sentence. Also it is important to cover each issue fully. Try to be as detailed and as thorough as you can be without going off on a tangent."

Most courses only have one exam so it is very important that you prepare as best as you can. There are a lot of ways to prepare for exams. Therefore, you must find the techniques which work best for you. Of course, these are only the suggestions of a few NYLS students, but hopefully it will lead you in the right direction of attaining great success on your exams.



Night Students

Some Thoughts on Your First Year

Alison Berger

First, you should all be congratulated for having the desire and fortitude to take up the formidable task of attending law school at night. It is not easy. I'm sure by now you have all figured that out. Your first year of law school will bring many changes. Those of you who were tops in your class in college will be up against others who have similar academic records. If you have professional careers and are used to being the boss, your first Socratic will be a shock. You are no longer asking the questions. You are no longer in control. Don't despair if you feel a bit lost and confused. There are at least 119 others who are feeling just as you do right now.

Law school is never a breeze and when you are working full time and attending law school it is even harder. Let me give you a little advice. Now is not the time to make any (other) important decisions or changes in your life such as changing residences or looking for a new job. The word is Focus. If you have a relationship, tell your loved one that your time together will be limited until you graduate. Don't think that everything will be the same. It won't. You will need to spend almost all of your free time studying, making outlines, attending extra classes in Westlaw/Lexis and legal research. Legal writing will require extensive library hours and preparation for moot court will, for those not comfortable with public speaking, bring fear and despair.

Now for the good part. Law school will broaden your horizons. It will give you a sense of accomplishment that you will not get in any other arena. When you have what is called an "ah ha"

moment—when everything falls into place, when concepts that had seemed so foreign to you now make sense—you will feel a joy that is indescribable. You will be attending class with people from all walks of life. Many professors say they enjoy teaching evening classes, as night students have so many valuable real-life experiences to bring into discussions. Your colleagues will be police officers, accountants, nurses, paralegals, business people, etc. They can help you understand complex legal theories proposed by professors in a hypothetical situation by explaining how they handle the situation in real life. Day students don't get this type of education. In fact, your fellow students are your best law school resource. Get into study groups. Help each other. Share outlines. Lean on each other and cry on each other's shoulders. After all, who knows more about what you are going through than someone who is going through it with you.

So for all of you who are walking around like zombies right now. Who's skin hasn't broken out like this since adolescence—don't despair and have no fear. I'm sure you've heard this before, but it is true. The first year is the hardest. You have to learn skills that you will use for the rest of your legal career.

One day you will look back on these days and laugh. You'll meet in the hallways as second and third year students and say "remember when so and so almost made you cry/vomit/pee in your pants?" and you'll laugh at how scared and stupid you felt. Thereafter, you'll see some young man or woman, a 1L, who looks like a zombie and who's hair is disheveled and you'll say "first of all you should be congratulated...." Good luck!

The L would like to wish you a Happy Halloween and a Happy Thanksgiving.

Stopping the Embargo on Cuba Starts at the Ballot Box

Maria J. Guerra

As a descendent of Cuban immigrants, I am writing this article to urge you to consider the issues surrounding Cubans when you vote for our leaders.

The United States Government, as authorized by statute, currently has a trade embargo against Cuba. This means that the US has halted all trade with Cuba. In his article for the Brooklyn Journal of International Law, April 1999, entitled "Lifting The Embargo Against Cuba Using Vietnam As A Model: A Policy Paper For Modernity," David Mowry said that the United States' reasons for maintaining the embargo are "economic, political and moral." The US is proceeding under the auspices of promoting democracy in Cuba. However, according to Mowry's research, the US government's reasons for the embargo are not quite that pure.

Mowry argues that the "true impetus for the embargo against Cuba appears to have been the seeking of restitution for US businesses that lost money and property." After the Revolution of 1959, the Castro government took over all of the US businesses and property without making restitution.

Many Cubans feel everyone who came to their island/country has exploited them. This is evident by Cuba's architec-

ture, which reflects the various eras of colonization. Cuba's history reflects a world of illegal business dealings, exploitation of workers, and unequal distribution of wealth. The Castro revolution was about ending all this, creating a world of equality, and taking back what Cubans felt was rightfully theirs. Unfortunately, it hasn't worked out that way.

Currently in Cuba, people are literally starving, without healthcare, and are imprisoned for counter-revolutionary activity, such as support of the embargo. My Uncle was imprisoned for seven (7) years for such activity. During those years, his wife and two daughters suffered immense poverty. They worked in fields referred to as "camps."

When my two little cousins arrived in New York some 15 years ago, after 20 years of struggling to get them here, I tried to describe this country, this state, and this city to them. One of the things I described was summer camp. They appeared disappointed when I mentioned camp. When I asked why, they described what "camp" was like for them. It is not about swimming pools and lakes. It is about hard labor in Cuba.

The US has decided to deal with these expropriation issues, as Mowry terms them, by continuing the embargo. This basically means that it deprives Cuba, and

thus, Cubans of valuable trade with us, hurting the Cuban economy and the Cuban people.

However, there are other strategies that could be more effective for dealing with the expropriation issues and that would serve the purposes of promoting democracy. Mowry suggests an alternative, modeled after how the US dealt with Vietnam over similar issues. Rather than taking a "hard-line full restitution or nothing" stance with Cuba, the US could begin to open up negotiations to attempt to settle the outstanding debt by Cuba.

"The problem," Mowry suggests, "is that by settling with Cuba for an amount less than the current US \$13 billion debt, the US Government could be liable to any of the over 5000 claimants to the taken property for the difference." But because of Cuba's current economic state, "Cuba cannot afford to pay a one-time payment." However, now that Cuba's economy is growing, Mowry suggests an alternative plan to satisfy the US claims while simultaneously bolstering Cuba's economy, so that full compensation could be paid over time.

In rather simplified terms, this is a three-step plan referred to as "phases" by Mowry. The first phase is "a decision by the President to end the embargo." The second phase is the partial lifting of the em-

bargo by having US alleviate travel restrictions, and open communications lines and services with Cuba. As a side note, it took two weeks in July 1996 for my mother to learn of my grandfather's death in Cuba. By alleviating the restrictions, Mowry says, "this would begin to fuel the Cuban tourism economy, and would allow Cuba to begin updating its obsolete communications technology systems." A stronger economy means a greater likelihood of a settlement. Finally, phase three would entail "Cuba taking measures to hold elections with opportunity for participation by other political parties."

Phase three, I believe, is the most difficult for Americans to overcome. After all, we cannot force Cuba to hold elections. However, as Richard M. Schmidt and Kevin M. Goldberg suggest in their Winter 1999 article in *The Communications Lawyer*, entitled, "Castro Alive And Well-Continues Forty Years Of Controlling Cubans' Speech," we need to start opening up the lines of negotiations because "in its efforts to promote democracy, the US trade embargo hurts the average citizen."

"By cutting Cuba off from currency, information, and cultural exchange, we are also closing off Cuban access to multi-culturalism and Cubans' right to enter the marketplace of ideas. The lack of a meaningful

Continued on page 14

Good Advice

Stumbling Towards Success

These Five Insurance and Financial Mistakes Can Cost You Dearly

Jeffrey Eichner, Esq.
NYLS Class of 1984

Everyone wants financial success for themselves and their families. What we spend long hours working towards—whether it's a first home, a college education for our children, or a retirement home in a warm tropical place—are our goals on the path to financial security. Unfortunately, it is all too easy to stumble on the way to your destination. I have compiled this list of what I have found to be the most common errors people make in achieving their insurance and financial goals. They are all potentially costly, and they could mean the difference between financial success and financial failure.

Failure to Plan. An old saying goes; "Most people don't plan to fail, they fail to plan." This is particularly true when it comes to insurance and finances. If any planning is done, it is on a piecemeal basis, but that's just not enough. To have a shot at accomplishing what we want, we must

first set our goals, analyze what it will take to achieve those goals, and then implement a plan. The plan should include everything from savings and checking accounts, to longer term vehicles like annuities, CDs, and IRAs, and the protection provided by life, health, and disability income insurance.

Insufficient Diversification. Another old adage still rings true: "Don't put all your eggs in one basket." Diversification is generally considered a key to reducing risk and enhancing potential return. Some people believe that because they have CDs in three different banks they're properly diversified. True diversification cuts across product types, lengths of maturity, and asset categories. With a well-diversified portfolio, you're never too dependent on how well one product performs.

Insufficient Life Insurance. We're quick to insure our cars and our homes, but too often we overlook our most important asset: ourselves. With mortgages, tuitions, and bills to be paid, it's

important to have proper coverage on all income earners. Some people may have group term life insurance through their employers, but this alone may not be sufficient.

Be careful not to be overly dependent on group term, for these plans can be inflexible, may not be portable, and may not be available when you need it most—after age 65. Look into purchasing individual coverage to suit your particular needs.

How much life insurance is enough? That depends on a number of personal factors including income and number of dependents. It's best to sit down with a professional to go over your needs and look at the available options.

Inadequate Disability Income Insurance. Your earning power is the generator that keeps the wheels of your household running smoothly. But what if that generator breaks down? The risk of disability, as well as its potential cost, is simply too great to ignore.

Once again, a company-

sponsored plan may be too limited for your needs. Typically, disability income insurance plans will cover 50 - 60% of your annual income for a pre-determined period of time. You'll want to study the policy carefully to understand all of the provisions, including the definition of disability, the waiting period following disability before you can collect, and the length of the payment period.

No Estate Plan. Some people have the impression that estate planning is just for the rich. Unfortunately, that view can be costly to their heirs.

Your estate includes such items as your home, cash, investments, personal property, and other assets you and your spouse may own jointly or as community property. These may add up to a lot more than you thought you were worth. Federal estate taxes begin at 37% for estates valued at more than \$650,000—which will gradually increase to \$1,000,000 by 2006—and can climb as high as 60% for larger estates. Add in state death taxes

and final expenses, and your death can be quite costly to your loved ones.

You owe it to your family to have an estate plan in place. An effective will, a trust arrangement, and adequate life insurance are some of the options available to you to help your heirs get what they deserve. Consult your tax, legal, and financial advisors for help in putting together an estate plan.

"To err is human" is yet another pearl of wisdom. Sure, everyone makes mistakes, but all of the ones outlined above can be avoided. With proper insurance and financial strategies you can steer past those costly blunders and be on the road to financial success.

For more information, please call Jeffrey Eichner at (212)-261-0247

Mr. Eichner is the president of E Group, a financial planning firm located here in New York.

CASE FOR...

Go Pro-Bono

The Ethical Duty of the Attorney

Lourdes DeRoja

It is accepted among the legal profession that every attorney has an ethical responsibility to participate in pro bono work. The Model Code of Professional Responsibility states that an attorney has "a pro bono duty to represent indigent criminal defendants and to aid in the administration of justice". Cynthia R. Watkins, *In Support of a Mandatory Pro Bono Rule for New York State*, 57 Brooklyn L. Rev. 177, 186 (Spring 1991). In 1969, this was expanded by the American Bar Association Code of Professional Responsibility, to state that an attorney should (1) assist in improving the legal system; and (2) assist the legal profession in fulfilling its duty to make legal counsel available. *Id.*

If attorneys did not meet this legal need within society, then who would? The fact is that attorneys are officers of the court. They are obligated to provide adequate legal service to the public, irrespective of whether their services can be paid for or not. Attorneys possess special training, skills and knowledge of law; they have a responsibility of preserving justice and equity within the legal system.

Many states have attempted to pass legislation making pro bono work mandatory for all practicing attorneys. A mandatory pro bono system would directly achieve the goal of increased access to the legal system for the poor. The amount of legal services available to the indigent would increase significantly because all practicing attorneys would have to provide it, rather than simply the handful that volunteer. However, there are attorneys who do not believe that mandatory pro bono work is the proper remedy to solve the problem, despite the fact that they believe something should be done. Some suggest that more funding for legal services programs is the answer. This would provide the poor with full-time professionals who are experienced in the field. *See Id.* at 181-185.

Idealistically, this would be a wonderful solution. Increase the full time staff at legal aid services programs with experienced attorneys would better serve the legal needs of the poor, especially in cases which require more than one court appearance and that may last for years. Realistically, federal funding for legal services has not increased beyond the level established

in 1980. *Id.* at 182. Legal aid services are unable to provide more full-time experienced attorneys to the poor because the funding is not available. However, private

with proposed legislation on the table are asking attorneys to do approximately 20 hours per year! The lost billable hours are not going to "break the bank" for attorneys

protection rights because other professionals, such as doctors, are not forced to provide pro bono services to the public. *See* John C. Scully, *Symposium on Mandatory Pro Bono*, "Mandatory Pro Bono: An Attack on the Constitution," 19 Hofstra L. Rev. 1229 (summer 1991).

The Supreme Court has never ruled on the issue of whether a mandatory pro bono requirement would be unconstitutional. However, where the mandatory rule allows for discretion on the part of the attorney on the "when and how" to fulfill the obligation, especially where the need for the legal services is great enough, it should withstand constitutional scrutiny. *See* 57 Brooklyn L. Rev. at 197-198.

The benefits of undertaking pro bono work are extensive. Pro bono work provides an arena for attorneys to explore and expand their personal and legal skills. Significant insight into the surrounding community is gained through relationships and connections established with the community, including the business within that community. These relationships and connections to the community are indispensable to an attorney and a successful legal practice.

Even for the inexperienced young attorney, fresh out of law school, pro bono work can be very beneficial. Participation provides them with first hand knowledge about how law is practiced in a variety of settings. The new attorneys are stimulated by the first hand contact with people who have very real legal problems and are able to increase their confidence as they learn that they have the ability to help people solve these problems.

Participating in pro bono work not only benefits the individual lawyer, but the entire legal community as a whole. Engaging in a unified effort to provide representation to persons with overwhelming legal need and with extremely limited resources (i.e., indigent persons, victims of domestic abuse, persons with AIDS, the homeless, etc.) enhances the public image of attorneys, and consequently, the legal profession which they represent.

Attorneys possess special training, skills and knowledge of law; they have a responsibility of preserving justice and equity within the legal system.

attorneys are educable. It is common practice in the private sector for attorneys to research new causes of action, new issues, new areas of law, so why would they not be able to do the same in pro bono cases? Of course, the argument is that time spent doing pro bono work for a non-paying client is time not spent making money on cases with paying clients.

Many attorneys whine that they have too many bills, loans and financial responsibilities rendering them unable to expend non-billable time to pro bono cases. Maybe this argument would make sense if attorneys were asked to take on a sizeable caseload. But the truth of the matter is that most attorneys are looking at 1 or 2 pro bono cases a year at best. Those states that already mandate pro bono work and those

who usually bill about 3000 hours in a year!

Furthermore, some of the opposition claims that mandatory pro bono work violates constitutional rights. First, they claim that litigation is speech protected by the First Amendment and that compelling an attorney to participate in pro bono programs may violate that attorney's right to free speech. Second, they claim that mandatory probono programs would violate an attorney's Thirteenth Amendment right against involuntary servitude. Third, it would be a violation of their Fifth Amendment right against takings without compensation. Fourth, it would be a violation of the due process clause under the Fourteenth Amendment, because they are being involuntarily stripped of their legal services. Fifth, it would be a violation of their equal



...CASE AGAINST

Pro Bono? I'd Love To But...

Gerard Strain

As an Intern at The Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) of the Nassau County Bar Association, I performed client intakes on indigents and referred their case to a private attorney who would serve pro bono. Nine times out of ten, the attorneys I contacted either didn't want the case or would not take the case unless it met certain criteria.

Many attorneys did not want to take a matrimonial action wherein assets and child custody would be the focus of the litigation. Such cases could last for years, taking up more time and resources of the attorney than expected.

For every rejection, I questioned the attorney's moral and professional character. After enduring the labors of the first year of law school, borrowing more money than I'm worth, and paying the price(s) associated with living in Manhattan, I have come to appreciate the reasons why many lawyers refrain from serving pro bono.

First, the costs of a legal education leave many graduates deep in debt years after graduation. It is not rare for a young lawyer to pay upwards of \$900.00 per month towards their loan payment. For a graduate hired by a large firm, such a financial burden may not be a problem.

However, with all due respect to my peers, not everyone will be getting the super job at the "monster" law firm with starting salaries of \$100,000 plus. Many, if not most future graduates will have to refrain from frugal spending and save their pennies just to avoid defaulting on their loans, rent, credit cards, etc...

Now, imagine yourself in the latter group, and a person comes into your office requesting your professional services for free. Such a situation is analogous to walking past a homeless person asking you for change; you would love to help, but right now you're more broke than he is.

There also is the obvious argument

that an attorney serving pro bono may not be as attentive to the indigent client's case as he or she would be to profit-generating cases. The argument that pro bono work

wherein an attorney may expend their own time and money to relieve themselves of serving pro bono. With the Reagan Administration's malicious reduction of federal

ing *in forma pauperis* status.

However, The U.S. Supreme Court in *Mallard v. US District Court for the Southern District of Iowa et al*, 490 U.S. 296, 109 S.Ct. 1814 (1989), held that notwithstanding any state statutes using the terms "appoint" or "assign," an attorney could decline to represent an indigent in federal court because of the operative use of the word "request" as used in §1915(d). Yet, the problem remains in the state courts.

Eugene Farber Esq., a prominent commercial litigator with Farber, Seagal & Pappalardo was ordered by the NY State Supreme Court (Westchester County) to represent a party in a matrimonial action. Mr. Farber, who has never practiced matrimonial law, expended time and money out of his own pocket to make a formal application to the Court to relieve himself of the order.

Mr. Farber feels that because the practice of law can be remunerative, attorneys should give back to the legal community. Nevertheless, he feels that attorneys appointed by the courts should be well versed in the field of law relevant to the case. Therefore, orders from the courts or the possibility of mandatory pro bono service is not only onerous, it can also be a nightmarish experience for an attorney.

I will fulfill my professional obligation as an attorney and comply with Canon Two of the Code of Professional Responsibility. Nevertheless, until I am secure professionally and financially, I'd rather get paid.

The argument that pro bono work gives a young lawyer good experience may be correct, but at who's expense?

gives a young lawyer good experience may be correct, but at who's expense?

Being an attorney is a business and attorneys bill for time. Truth be known, if I were billing one client at \$300.00 per hour and I'm representing another client pro bono, guess which case would get put on the back burner if necessary?

This is not to say that myself or other attorneys would not zealously represent indigent clients, but you get what you pay for. As result of such a scenario, a young lawyer gains experience, but the indigent client will suffer.

Conversely, there are scenarios

funding to various legal aid societies in the early 1980's, many organizations like the VLP were forced to cut back on staff and abandon certain case types.

The result was that many Bar Associations in various states attempted to impose a mandatory pro bono requirement of all their respective attorneys. Additionally, state courts were utilizing their right to appoint or assign counsel more frequently.

Even Federal Courts attempted to require pro bono services under 28 U.S.C.A. §1915(d). This section would allow federal courts to request that an attorney serve pro bono for any person claim-

Deadline for the Next Issue November 18

**GET TO
KNOW
US!**

L@nyls.edu

SLEEP

STUDY

RELAX



THE WORLD'S LARGEST LAW BOOKSTORE

*"Why Stand
In Line At
The Bookstore?"*

*"Why Pay
Full Price?"*

*"Why Carry All Your
Books Home?"*

"Why Wait?"



Shop On-Line

24 Hours A Day, 7 Days A Week

www.lawstuffusa.com

Call 1-800-628-1160

Mon-Fri 8-7, Sat 10-2

Student Bar Association

1999-2000 Executive Board

Danielle Butler
President

Dawn Falco
Vice President—Day

Lori Quinn
Vice President—Evening

Elizabeth Valandingham
Secretary

Darrin Ocasio
Treasurer

Joe Tornberg
Attorney General

Melissa Longo
ABA Representative

Thomas Prol
ABA Governor

Senators

CLASS of 2000

SECTION A
Damian Albergo
Mark Demetropolous
Damian Fracasso

SECTION B
Steve Fritz
Robert Vivien

SECTION C
Benjamin Darche
Scott Wassmuth

SECTION E
William Cozzolino

CLASS of 2001

SECTION A
Joe Altavilla
Michael Arcati
Marcus E. Coleman
Michael Hart*

SECTION B
Peter Martin

SECTION C
Michael Bigelow
Graig Martin
Michael H. Moore

SECTION E
Virginia Ivanova
Ian Kaplan
Merritt Pardini

CLASS of 2002

SECTION A
Raymond Hayes
Arunima Niogi
Andrew Sterrer
Gregory Kaimar*
Kelle Gagne*
Nathalie Mandel*
Michael Scheinder*

SECTION B
Balin Baidwan
Charles Dufresne
Courtney McGuinn
Demian Goldstraj*

SECTION C
Lisa Compango
Alan Mena
Angela Pilla
Toni Biscardi*

SECTION E
Julie Goldenberg
Christopher Ross
Gerard Strain
Joanne Olson*

CLASS of 2003

SECTION E
Lauren Godfrey
Tracy McDonagh

*Alternate Senator

The NYLS Student Bar Association at a Glance

Elizabeth Valandingham
Secretary, Student Bar Assoc.

The Student Bar Association (SBA) is your student government. In representing the student body, SBA acts as your link to the faculty and administration at NYLS. SBA is also responsible for governing student organizations.

SBA is an extension of the American Bar Association (ABA). The SBA President and our ABA representative attend the ABA annual meeting in a voting capacity.

For this millennium academic year, the SBA focuses on leadership, increasing student helpfulness and diversifying its productivity.

The SBA consists of an Executive Board and Senate. The Executive Board is

comprised of the President, Day Vice-President, Evening Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Attorney General and ABA Representative.

The Senate Body is comprised of three elected Senators and two alternative Senators from each of the 12 sections. The Senators serve as liaisons to the governing body on behalf of their sections.

You can reach the SBA at (212) 431-2899 ext. 4203. The SBA office is in room L5, located in the Lower Level of the C building. All students are encouraged to stop by or drop a note in any E-Board member's mailfolder with any questions or concerns. SBA also encourages you to contact your section Senators for updates and information. The SBA looks forward to a successful and exciting year.

Participate!

Student Organization News

AALSA

The Asian American Law Students Association (AALSA) of New York Law School is a smaller component of major Asian Pacific American student organizations such as the Association of Asian American Law Students of New York (AAALSNY) and the National Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (NAPALSA).

AALSA serves its members by assisting them with the transition into the environment of legal studies. Over the years, AALSA has established a mentor-mentee system by networking first-year students with upperclassmen, organized course selection workshops, and created a library of outlines and commercial study aids donated by past members.

AALSA also provides networking opportunities with the NYLS alums. Past accomplishments include an attorney mentor program, alumni cocktail reception and banquet, and close ties with the Asian Bar Associations on the regional as well as the national level.

AALSA heightens awareness to issues that impact the Asian American community as a whole. It organized the Cammy Lee blood drive in an effort to find

potential bone marrow donors for Asian Americans and participated in the circulation of a petition concerning incidents of ethnic discrimination practiced by Denny's.

AALSA is an ethnically diverse organization and encourages interested students of all ethnicities to join. For further information, one can email johnjkang@hotmail.com.

—JK

The Irish Law Students Association

The Irish Law Students Association will be very active this year. The student events we are planning include question and answer forums with practicing attorneys and socials with Irish/Gaelic Associations from other law schools (Hofstra, Brooklyn and Fordham).

Over the years the Association has formed a bond with Irish organizations outside NYLS. Our participation, and contribution to organizations such as the Brehon Law Society —Non-Governmental Organization—and the Irish Parades Emergency Committee has enabled the Association to gain a respect with those groups that we wish, not only to maintain, but, to

increase.

These organizations primarily involve themselves with matters of human rights and immigration. Using New York Law School as a forum for these groups to hold events has, and will continue to, provide wonderful exposure for NYLS in the community.

By bringing these groups to NYLS we also hope to educate the students as to these topics. Although the theme is Ireland, the efforts of these groups are not confined to Ireland and the Association believes that the NYLS community can benefit greatly from the maintenance of ties to such organizations.

The Association is also in the process of updating our "Information Bank." We have accumulated materials from various organizations, events, and programs in NYC and abroad. If you are interested in anything from Irish Arts Programs to participating as a human rights observer in Ireland, please contact our office.

All are welcome at our meetings, and are encouraged to attend any and all functions that we sponsor. The Association would also appreciate any questions and comments you may have, including suggestions for events, speakers, etc.

—JM/BC

LaLSA

The Latino Law Students Association (LaLSA) is pleased to announce this year's Executive Board: Jessica LaMarche, President; Nancy M. López, Vice-President; Veronica Fuentes, Treasurer; Edward Sayago, Secretary; and Charisse Espinosa, Attorney General.

We are especially pleased to announce that Professor Lenni Benson has agreed to serve as our Faculty Advisor.

The LaLSA E-Board has planned several events and programs during the year, which include, a mentor-mentee program; a revised and updated outline bank; community outreach events; social mixers; fund-raisers and much more.

Among the many factors that makes a successful student organization, one of the most important is the continued participation and enthusiasm of its members. We strongly encourage all interested students to come to drop by the LaLSA office and meet the E-Board and other members. We are located in L2 of the Student Center.

—NML

The Life of an International Lawyer

Robert J. Lorch
President,
International Law Soc.

Tantalizing foreign cuisine, fantastic adventure, and exotic locale. What exactly is an international lawyer anyway? How do you become one? When applying to law school, I stated in my personal statement that a large part of my attraction to international law was "the process of how the creation of laws shape world events and affect the lives of individuals and of society." Now as a 2L, I look back and remember one question I really wanted answered while writing that statement. How do I become a part of "the process?" Well, the path towards involvement is different for everyone, but there are a few things I know of that can help you start the journey.

If you would like to work abroad over the summer, there are quite a few opportunities out there. However, you must be persistent in finding them and you need to start your search ASAP. Application due dates pass quickly, some as early as September. It was not until March of last year that I sat finally sat down with the NYLS career services's books and the Internet to begin my search. This is a bad idea. As I soon found out, most of the deadlines had past and my options had become more limited. It is a pain finding a job domestically, let alone one overseas.

Remember as well that it takes a while to send things by mail back and forth across seas, so whenever possible, use e-mail. It works. Despite the fact that I had started my job search so late, I received an internship in Cape Town, South Africa using e-mail. Which brings me to my next point

—internships.

Many positions are internships and not paid, so be prepared to spend money. Once you find a job early, make sure you apply for a summer loan, find scholarships, or a combination of both. There are many scholarships out there — you just have to find them. NYLS offers a few and has information on others.

As an alternative, or even better, *in addition to* an international summer position, there are many study abroad programs that American law schools sponsor all over the world. Just pick what country you want to go to and you will likely find a school that sponsors a study program there. Besides being able to live in a foreign country for a few weeks, you will also be able to take courses that will teach you more about international law, or even courses you need to help you pass the bar.

As for what you can do now, many schools and associations (including NYLS) host guest speakers on international law. The NYLS Center for International Law hosts such events.

You can also join the International Law Society at NYLS, which has information on this article, sponsors discussion panels of practicing international lawyers, international moot courts, and much more.

So, how can you become a part of "the process"? Start early, be aware, work hard, and always remember what it is about this world that drives you to be an "international lawyer."

For more information, contact the International Law Society at (212) 431-2899 ext. 4193, or email rlorch.s@nyls.edu or martncrz@aol.com

THIS
SPACE
FOR
RENT

212.431.2899 ext.4202

Deadline for the Next Issue November 18

Your opinion matters.

L@nyls.edu

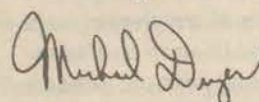
A MESSAGE FROM THE BOOKSTORE

To all members of the NYLS community:

I just wanted to extend a warm welcome to the first-year students, returning students, faculty, and staff. If there is anything that my staff or I can do to assist you, please do not hesitate to ask.

You may stop by, call x2315, or e-mail us at bksnylaw@bncollege.com. Best wishes for a successful 1999-2000 academic year.

Sincerely,



Michael Dwyer
Bookstore Manager

AS AN EGG DONOR, YOU CAN GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE.

Seeking healthy women,
ages 21-32, to donate eggs to infertile couples.
\$5,000 compensation for your time and effort.

Treatment cycle monitored at
Reproductive Medicine Associates
on the Upper East Side.

For more information on being
an egg donor, please call
1 (800) 824-3123.

REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE ASSOCIATES, LLP
58 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10021

Associated with
**The Institute for Reproductive Medicine
and Science of Saint Barnabas Medical Center**
Livingston, New Jersey

Cuba

Continued from page 7

American press presence plays right into the hands of Castro, who has noted his inherent distrust of foreign journalists." What Schmidt and Goldberg suggest is that we "open the eyes of both countries." In effect, it would provide Cubans with "positive images of life in a democratic society." And for Americans, "news stories run about Cuban life would spur a renewed interest in establishing relations with Cuba." It is important to experience the plight of Cubans and their resolve under impoverished conditions, in order for there to be a "want to assist them."

The Brooklyn Journal of International Law reported that, "in 1996, the United Nations voted 137-3 for a resolution calling for an end to the Cuban embargo by the United States. Such a strong vote signified that the thirty-year embargo has not carried favor with the rest of the world."

CNN recently reported that there is "a congressional push to allow sales of US food and medical supplies to the island." This is the result of Cuban-Americans actively lobbying Congress to ease restrictions in order to gain access to the Cuban people.

There is still much that needs to be done. I hope I have left you with an impression that remains with you until the next major election when you can elect leaders who will influence the legislation and the policy made by the US with regard to Cuba.

**Law School is hard.
Reading the L is easy.**



WHO IS CHIDI?

Find out next issue...

In Concert

Tricks, Bastards & Voices

A Bona-Fide Rock 'n Roll Experience in Philly

Lauren LoCascio

It was Saturday, September 18 when I made my solo pilgrimage to Philadelphia, PA for an evening that made its mark on rock history (if anyone out there is keeping track). So what if my time spent on the bus equaled the amount of time I was actually in Philly? I was on the guest list.

The place was Philadelphia's Electric Factory, a large gutted structure with surprisingly excellent acoustics. The line-up consisted of Those Bastard Souls (my personal favorite) opening up, followed by Guided by Voices, with Cheap Trick headlining.

Those Bastard Souls kicked off the evening with polished brilliance. Prior to the Philly show, Those Bastard Souls (TBS) had toured through NYC. Because their tour coincided with the CMJ Music Festival, the Souls ended up playing to smaller rooms.

And while having seen TBS perform their heart wrenching ballads and folksy blues numbers in an intimate venue was an experience not to have been missed, checking them out at the Electric Factory was mind blowing. They were able to play at a volume that I had not yet experienced and the power behind the mix lent their rock tunes a richer and more complex sound. The act was tight; TBS seemed as excited as the audience about the show ahead.

Guided by Voices were up next with Bob Pollard (vocals and all-around mastermind) delivering up a mighty dose of thoughtful lyricism and the rock-and-roll antics, which his fans have come to adore and expect. He came on stage drunk as hell, jumping around, kicking high, swinging his mic and belting out songs that beg to be blasted in a fast car with all of its windows down.

Bob pounded Heinekens, danced backwards into his fellow band members and botched some of his lyrics. However,

the music was so infectious and the crowd was whipped up into such a frenzy that all was forgiven in the sweaty romp.

While I had seen Those Bastard Souls and Guided by Voices countless times, I had never been to a Cheap Trick concert. It was an almost morbid curiosity that got me on that bus. Would these 70's rockers pull it off? What did they look like? Could they still hit the notes? Had they been rendered peniless by sleazy management—despite the fact that Live At Budokan went triple platinum—and are now forced to do reunion tours in order to pay the rent?

The crowd went nuts as Cheap Trick took the stage, hammering out their version of Fats Domino's *Ain't that a Shame*. Vocalist and guitarist Robin Zander was styling in a purple velvet suit, eerily demonstrating what Kurt Cobain might have looked like in twenty years (had he lived and kicked both Courtney and the Heroin). Zander's voice was in fabulous shape.

Guitarist and overall front man Rick Neilson also looked well, as good as he ever looked. His mastery of the guitar, and his mastery over the crowd, was awesome.

Zander and Neilson strutted around with arena-style flamboyance, utilizing their arsenal of guitars between each song to continually trade-in for more impressive instruments. They played all of the old favorites (what else would they play?), Surrender, Dream Police, I want you to want me. The kids loving it, the band reciprocated with great enthusiasm. I yelled so loud that Rick Neilson threw me a guitar pick which beamed me in the forehead (no solicitations, please).

An excellent show, the above bands come highly recommended. A great time was had by all the night of September 18—with the possible exception of the kid sitting next to me on the ride back home who had to hear about all of this.

FC0918 GA GA0 278 COMP
STANDING ROOM 0.00
GUIDED BY VOICES
CHEAP TRICK
INCLUDES \$0.25 TO CHARITY
ELECTRIC FACTORY
EF0409C BET 6&7 CALLOHILL&SPC CDN
18SEP99 SAT SEP 18, 1999 8:30PM

NYLS Center for International Law

Symposium Series at the
Association of the Bar of the City of New York

42 West 44th Street (between 5th and 6th Avenues)

Moderator:

SYDNEY M. CONE, III

C.V. Starr Professor of Law

Director, Center for International Law

New York Law School

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

States' Rights v. International Trade: The Massachusetts Burma Law

In recent years, many state and local governments have passed laws restricting trade with countries whose policies they disapprove of or deplore. One such measure, the Massachusetts "Burma Law," restricts state purchases from companies doing business in Burma (now known as Myanmar) because of alleged human rights abuses. After being held unconstitutional by a federal appeals court, the law is now poised for review by the Supreme Court.

The case raises important issues under federal and international law. May states and localities pass laws impinging upon foreign commerce and obligations under international trade agreements? If the case is reversed and the law upheld, what will be the implications for the World Trade Organization?

THOMAS A. BARNICO

Assistant Attorney General
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETER J. SPIRO

Associate Professor of Law
Hofstra University School of Law

PAUL R. DUBINSKY

Associate Professor of Law
New York Law School

JOEL P. TRACHTMAN

Professor of International Law
The Fletcher School of Law and
Diplomacy, Tufts University

7:00 to 9:00 pm in the Stimson Room

Monday, October 25, 1999

Multi-disciplinary Practice (MDP)

Certain lawyers have been seeking the right to form partnerships with non-lawyers such as accountants, elder-care advisors, and financial analysts. In addition, the Big Five accounting firms have been seeking the right to render legal services to the public and to acquire their own law firms. In each case, the objective is to engage in multi-disciplinary practice (MDP). Recently, the ABA issued a long-awaited report on MDP. The Symposium will discuss and analyze the issues relating to the needs of clients and the professional responsibility of legal practitioners under MDP.

ALISON CRAWLEY

Head of Professional Ethics
The Law Society of England and
Wales, London

DEBORAH H. SCHENK

Marilynn & Ronald Grossman
Professor of Taxation
New York University School of Law

L. HAROLD LEVINSON

Professor of Law
Vanderbilt University School of Law

BERNARD WOLFMAN

Fessenden Professor of Law
Harvard University School of Law

LUCINDA A. LOW

Partner, Miller & Chevalier
Washington, D.C.

1:30 to 5:00 pm in the Stimson Room

Admission is free, however seating is limited.

To RSVP, please call Michael Rhee at (212) 431-2865 or e-mail mrhee@nyls.edu.



Summer 1998 Bar Exam Pass Rate:

NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL

92%

Students Supplementing With PMBR (219 of 239 Passed!)

*Increase Your MBE Score...
Increase Your Odds Of Passing!*

***pmb*r**
MULTISTATE SPECIALIST

Can You Afford Not To Supplement With PMBR?

NATIONWIDE TOLL FREE: (800) 523-0777 • www.pnbr.com